

## Community College of Vermont Pre-Nursing Guide 2026

This guide was created to help students understand the pathway from CCV into nursing programs throughout Vermont. While you may be just starting out, we recommend that you read through this entire document as information in later sections will impact decisions early in your education at CCV.

### Nursing: A Career with Opportunity

Perhaps no other health care career offers as much versatility and flexibility as nursing. Nurses are employed in diverse work settings from hospitals, ambulatory clinics, and long-term care facilities to schools, government agencies, and research entities. Nurses can choose from full-time, part-time, and per diem employment. In Vermont, nurses are in high demand and will continue to be for the foreseeable future. In addition, nursing provides a career pathway with opportunities for continued education, increasing levels of responsibility, and specialization for those who wish to pursue those options.

### Things to Consider

Nursing is a rewarding and demanding career with high levels of personal and professional satisfaction. As you consider nursing, it's important to understand both the demands of nursing education programs and the demands of the profession. Strong writing skills in addition to familiarity with APA citation formats, as well as strong critical thinking and analytical skills will be of great benefit. Getting started on developing these skills, habits, and characteristics at CCV will prepare you for the rigors of a nursing program and a successful career.

#### **Successful Nursing Students share the following habits:**

- Work diligently to master science and math coursework.
- Devote ample time out of class to really learn (not just memorize) course material.
- Plan for emergencies so that they may attend all classes and student obligations (e.g., clinical prep time at the hospital).
- Communicate respectfully with faculty and peers as a full participant in your education.
- Be on time and prepared for classes.
- Take responsibility for knowing all program requirements, meeting requirements, and asking for clarification when needed.

#### **Successful Nurses share the following characteristics:**

- Communicative: clearly communicating information and expectations in a calm and respectful manner.
- Empathetic: able to feel compassion for the pain and suffering of others.
- Detail Oriented: attends to small details with an understanding that these are important.
- Emotionally Resilient: able to remain emotionally stable when dealing with both traumatic and exhilarating experiences.
- Respectful and Professional: follows protocols and always remains respectful of patients, coworkers, and families.

- Competent: dedicated and accountable for continued professional growth and development through life-long learning (e.g. further education, training, seminar attendance, etc.).
- Critical thinking: Nurses must be able to use good judgment and make decisions. Strong communication skills, analysis, and problem-solving skills will help you develop critical thinking.

These are a few of the more important characteristics; there are many more. As a nursing student, beginning to cultivate these characteristics throughout your schooling will serve you well.

### Pathways to Vermont Nursing Programs

Admission to Vermont nursing programs is highly competitive. Successful completion of pre-nursing courses strengthens your application and saves time and money over the course of your nursing education. CCV's Allied Health Preparation certificate provides an excellent platform for completing pre-nursing coursework.

The following pathways will help you choose elective courses in your Allied Health Preparation certificate to meet the requirements of VT nursing programs:

#### Vermont State University 2026 – 27 Catalog:

VTSU PN-ADN-RN-BSN Program available statewide	
CCV Allied Health Prep (AHP) Certificate	VTSU Practical Nursing (PN)
INT 1050 Dimensions of Self & Society	CNX 1010 Connections Seminar 1 <sup>3</sup> (required in BSN pathway)
ENG 1061 English Composition	ENG 1061 English Composition <sup>2</sup>
Math: Choose MAT 1030 Applied Math Concepts	MAT 1440 Mathematics for Allied Health <sup>2</sup>
BIO 2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I	BIO 2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I <sup>1</sup>
BIO 2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II	BIO 2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II <sup>1</sup>
CCV Allied Health Prep Certificate Electives	
Choose: BIO 1030 Introduction to Nutrition PSY 2070 Lifespan Developmental Psychology	BIO Introduction to Nutrition <sup>1</sup> PSY 2070 Lifespan Developmental Psychology <sup>1</sup>
	PN requirements at VTSU:
	NUR 1010 Pharmacology for Nursing 3 cr NUR 1020 The Nurse-Client Relationship <sup>2</sup> 3cr NUR 1111 Principles & Practices of Nursing I 5 cr NUR 1121 Principles & Practices of Nursing II 5 cr NUR 1131 Principles & Practices of Nursing III 5 cr NUR 0111 Principles & Practices of Nursing Lab I 4 cr NUR 0121 Principles & Practices of Nursing Lab II 4 cr NUR 0131 Principles & Practices of Nursing Lab III 4 cr

Additional AHP Electives	VTSU Associate of Science in Nursing (AS.NUR-RN)
BIO 2120 Elements of Microbiology	BIO 2120 Elements of Microbiology <sup>2</sup>
PSY 1010 Introduction to Psychology	PSY 1010 Introduction to Psychology <sup>2</sup>
HUM-2020 Bioethics  OR  ENG 1062 English Composition II**	HUM-2020 Bioethics <sup>2</sup> (meets VSCS General Education: Humanistic Perspectives requirement for AS.NUR degree. AS students need either Arts & Aesthetics or Humanistic Perspectives) ENG 2080 Technical Communication <sup>3</sup> (meets VTSU Connections Seminar II General Education Requirement)
	AS.NUR requirements at VTSU:
	NUR 2030 Principles & Practices of Nursing IV 3 cr NUR 2040 Principles & Practices of Nursing IV Lab 2 cr NUR 2060 Transition to Professional Nursing Practice 3 cr NUR 2130 Principles & Practices of Nursing V 6 cr NUR 2140 Principles & Practices of Nursing V Lab 4 cr General Education requirements not completed at CCV
Total CCV AHP Credits: 33	Additional VTSU Credits for AS.NUR: 54 credits

<sup>1</sup>Course applies to PN certificate.

<sup>2</sup>VSCS General Education/program requirement applies to AS.NUR.

<sup>3</sup>CCV/VTSU General Education Course applies to AS.NUR/BSN.

*\*\*Students who are transferring with 30 credits or more and have previously completed an intermediate research and writing intensive course are exempt from VTSU Connections Seminar 2.*

VTSU Bachelor of Science in Nursing- available at VTSU Castleton	
CCV Allied Health Prep Certificate	VTSU Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)
INT 1050 Dimensions of Self & Society	CNX 1010 Connections Seminar 1
ENG 1061 English Composition	ENG 1061 English Composition
Math: Choose MAT 2021 Statistics*	MAT 1350 Statistics & Health*
BIO 2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I*	BIO 2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I*
BIO 2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II*	BIO 2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II*
CCV Allied Health Prep Certificate Electives	
BIO 1030 Introduction to Nutrition*	BIO 1030 Introduction to Nutrition*
BIO 2120 Elements of Microbiology*	BIO 2120 Elements of Microbiology*
PSY 1010 Introduction to Psychology*	PSY 1010 Introduction to Psychology*
PSY 2070 Lifespan Development Psychology*	PSY 2070 Lifespan Developmental Psychology*

(or PSY-1050 Human Growth and Development in prior catalogs)	
SOC 1010 Introduction to Sociology*	SOC 1010 Introduction to Sociology*
	<a href="#">Additional VTSU BSN Core Requirements</a>
Total CCV Credits: 33	

Natural and Social science courses must be completed within 10 years prior to admission. Students must receive a grade of C+ or better in BIO and PSY courses to progress from PN to ASN. Additional courses that may be completed at CCV: CHE 1031, ENG 1070, 6 credits of Arts & Aesthetics general education. **Please note:** Students will be accepted into this program for a fall start term. Students take NUR 2100 at VTSU in their first fall semester and the BSN program will take a minimum of 3 years to complete.

- To learn more about VTSU's PN Certificate, please visit: [VTSU PN Program](#)
- To learn more about VTSU's Associate's Degree in Nursing (ASN), please visit: [VTSU ASN Program](#)
- To learn more about VTSU's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN), please visit: [VTSU BSN Program](#)

#### Other Vermont Nursing Program Partners:

Norwich University Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
AHP Certificate Core Course	NU Equivalent
INT-1050 Dimensions of Self & Society	XX 188 Free Elective
ENG-1061 English Composition	WRIT 110 Writing & Inquiry I
Math: Choose MAT-2021 Statistics*	MA 232 Elementary Statistics
BIO-2011 Human Anatomy & Physiology I *	BI 215 Human Anatomy & Physiology I
BIO-2012 Human Anatomy & Physiology II*	BI 216 Human Anatomy & Physiology II
AHP Certificate Electives	NU Equivalent
BIO-2120 Elements of Microbiology*	BIO 220 Introductory Microbiology
BIO-1030 Introduction to Nutrition	HHPR200 Foods and Nutrition
ENG-1062 English Composition II	WRIT 111 Writing & Inquiry II
PSY-1010 Introduction to Psychology	PY 110 Introduction to Psychology
PSY-2070 Lifespan Development Psychology	PY 220 Developmental Psychology
SOC-1010 Introduction to Sociology	SO 201 Introduction to Sociology

Under the Vermont Transfer Guarantee (VTG), CCV students who graduate are guaranteed admission to Norwich University. Students who complete a CCV associate's degree (e.g. Health Science A.S), meet GPA requirements, and take the courses identified in the guide, will be guaranteed admission with a seamless pathway. CCV graduates will also meet all other general education requirements for the program at Norwich. Classes must have been taken within 7 years of the desired entry term to count.

\*Students must achieve a grade of C+ or higher and minimum overall GPA of 3.0.

### Students who already hold a bachelor's degree in another field

There are a few opportunities in Vermont and certainly others outside the state that offer direct-entry programs into nursing for students who already hold a B.A. or B.S. in another field. These programs will require prerequisite coursework including several of the non-nursing courses listed above. Many students choose to take these prerequisites at CCV and then apply directly to a direct-entry BSN, MSN, or DNP degree.

For more information see the following Vermont programs:

[Norwich Accelerated BSN](#) (this program accepts students with associate or bachelor degrees in non-nursing fields)

[UVM Direct Entry MSN Clinical Nurse Leader program](#)

[UVM Direct Entry DNP program](#)

To learn more about the direct entry programs at UVM, contact [Loretta McManus](#)

### Strengthening your Application

It's probably no surprise that your grades will be one of the most important criteria used in the evaluation of your application. Nursing programs in Vermont, and elsewhere, are extremely competitive with many more people applying than programs have capacity to enroll. While you might be tempted to think that the minimum grades posted on a program website will be "good enough", often programs are deciding between applicants with course grades and GPAs that far exceed their published minimums. That doesn't mean that only those with straight As and 4.0 GPAs get into nursing school, but it does mean that it is crucial to devote the time and energy necessary to do your very best in your preparatory coursework.

In addition, it's important to demonstrate that you can successfully complete the workload of a nursing program. This might be accomplished through taking multiple credits successfully in the same semester, or you may decide to demonstrate this through your ability to handle multiple responsibilities while successfully completing preparatory courses. Please know that any nursing program will be extremely demanding and will require you to devote significant time and energy to your classes, clinicals, and studies.

In addition to your coursework, there are several experiences that will be a benefit to you in your future nursing career and may strengthen your application and make you more competitive in the application process. Many nursing programs look favorably on those applicants who have demonstrated success in a health care field. For example, working as a licensed nursing assistant (LNA) is great preparation for a nursing program and demonstrates that you have a good sense of what it means to care for others.

Similarly, working in a service occupation where you are dealing with many different customers can also be helpful.

### When to Apply and What to Include?

Letters of recommendation should come from faculty who can attest to your academic ability. The best choices are your science faculty. It's important to cultivate relationships with faculty so that they speak to both your strengths as a student as well as to those habits and characteristics that demonstrate your aptitude for nursing. Additionally, letters of recommendation from supervisors can be helpful especially if you work in healthcare. Be sure to make use of CCV resources to help you write, proofread, and rewrite your application materials!

Application Timelines	
School	For Application Deadline and Requirements
Vermont State University	<a href="#">Vermont State University Nursing</a>
Norwich University	<a href="#">Norwich University Nursing</a>
University of Vermont	<a href="#">University of Vermont Nursing</a>